

BellSouth has filed a petition at the FCC, asking the FCC to stop regulating broadband service. If this petition is granted, this would mean that the large phone companies would no longer be subject to regulatory review of their broadband pricing to independent ISPs like Sonic.net. As a result, the smaller ISPs would have to individually negotiate pricing and the ability to interconnect.

The more serious threat is that it is even possible that the phone companies could, in the long run, refuse to provide the necessary connections for the smaller ISPs DSL service, and they would be unable to sell DSL at all.